



San Diego County Office of Education

Rudy M. Castruita, Superintendent of Schools

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August 30, 1999

The Honorable Wayne L. Peterson
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
P.O. Box 2724
San Diego CA 92112

Dear Judge Peterson:

This letter is written in response to San Diego County Grand Jury Recommendation 99-104 of the 1998-99 San Diego Grand Jury and is intended to comply with California Penal Code Section 933(c).

Recommendation 99-104 reads as follows:

The San Diego County Department of Education should, beginning in the year 2000, sponsor and coordinate an annual conference of administrators and teachers involved in San Diego County continuation schools. The agenda of the first conference should include but not be limited to the following:

1. development of a standardized student tracking system for continuation schools,
2. the reporting in School Accountability Report Cards by schools of programs developed to control gangs, crime, and drug abuse on their campuses, and
3. use of periodic interviews of randomly selected students to ascertain the developing viewpoints of students concerning their school experience.

Response to Recommendation 99-104:

In October 1999, staff at the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) will meet with the principals and teacher representatives from Abraxis, Chaparral, Garfield, and Palomar High Schools to plan the first conference that the Grand Jury recommended. These four schools were visited extensively by the Grand Jury's Education Committee.

Board of Education

Nick Aguilar Gene Brucker Susen Foy Jim Kelly John Witt

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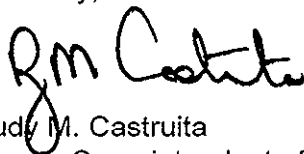
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Staff at the SDCOE will suggest that the following topics be addressed at the conference:

1. California School Information Services (CSIS) - CSIS is a state-funded initiative with the mission to design and implement a statewide system that will enable local education agencies to electronically exchange student records and to submit automated state reports to the California Department of Education.
2. San Diego County Programs which can assist staff at continuation schools to control gangs, crime, and drug abuse on their campuses.
3. SDCOE services for assisting schools to develop and score surveys to ascertain viewpoints of students toward their schools.
4. SDCOE system for identifying 1999 Stanford 9 reading and mathematics content clusters that need to be improved, and modifying instruction to insure student test score improvement in 2000.
5. Overview of exceptional program for assisting older students with limited literacy, including dates and times continuation school teachers can participate in future trainings.
6. Overview of the SDCOE's 1999-2000 Career and College Planning Guide and how to use the affordable Guide with students.
7. Development of a data base to identify a student profile for the development of strategies to increase academic achievement.

The conference will be held during the 1999-2000 fiscal year. The four members of the Education Committee of the 1998-99 San Diego Grand Jury will be invited by the planning committee to attend the conference they inspired.

Sincerely,



Rudy M. Castruita
County Superintendent of Schools

RMC:BAS

cc: Peter J. DiRenza, Foreman
San Diego County Grand Jury